

What is claimed is:

1. In a radio communication system having a mobile node selectably operable to communicate data within at least a first selected frequency band within which a group of networks are operable to communicate, an improvement of apparatus for facilitating selection of
5 at least a first selected network of the group of networks with which to attempt, by the mobile node, to communicate the data, said apparatus comprising:
a storage element embodied at the mobile node, said storage element for storing at least a first identifier identifying the at least the first selected network;
a network detector embodied at the mobile node, said network detector for
10 detecting which networks of the group of networks are within communication range of the mobile node;
a selector adapted to receive indications of the at least the first identifier stored at said storage element and to receive indications of detections made by said network detector, said selector for selecting which, if any, network, of the group of networks, as the at least the first
15 selected network with which to attempt to communicate the data, selection made by said selector of networks, if any, identified by the at least the first identifier and also detected by said network detector to be within communication range.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said storage element at which the at least the
20 first identifier is stored comprises a portable memory releasably positionable at the mobile node.
3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the portable memory of which said storage element is comprised comprises an identification memory card positionable in releasable engagement with the mobile node such that, when engaged thereat, said selector is coupled to the
25 identification memory card permitting access by said selector of values representative of the at least the first identifier stored at the identification memory card.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said storage element comprises a non-permanent memory, the at least the first identifier stored at the non-permanent memory of which said storage element is comprised at least selectably updatable.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the radio communication system comprises a network part selectably for sending storage-element update information to the mobile node, said apparatus further comprising an update information detector, said update information detector for detecting the storage-element update information sent to the mobile node and for causing the storage-element update information to be stored at said storage element.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the storage-element update information selectably comprises additive information and wherein said update information detector causes the storage-element update information forming the additive information to be added to the non-permanent memory of which said storage element is comprised.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the storage-element update information selectably comprises replacement information and wherein said update information detector causes the storage-element update information forming the replacement information to replace the at least the first identifier stored at said storage element.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least a first listing is defined at said storage element, the first listing formed of the at least the first identifier that identifies the at least the first selected network.

25 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the at least the first selected frequency band within which the mobile node is selectably operable to communicate data comprises the first selected frequency band and a second selected frequency band and wherein the at least the first listing defined at said storage element comprises the first listing and a second listing, the at least the first identifier identifying the first network contained at the first listing and a second

identifier identifying a second network contained at the second listing, the first network operable within the first frequency band and the second listing operable within the second frequency band.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said storage element is at least selectably
5 updatable and wherein the first and second listings, respectively, further have associated therewith at least a first password, said apparatus further comprising a storage element updater adapted to receive update information and update-password information, said storage element updater for comprising values of the update-password information with the at least the first password and selectably further for updating an appropriate one of the first and second listings.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the at least the first password comprises a fast-listing password and a second-listing password and wherein said update-password information is compared by said storage element updater with at least a selected one of the first-listing and second-listing passwords.

12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said storage element is at least selectably
updateable and wherein the first listing defined at said storage element has at least a first password associated therewith, said apparatus further comprising a storage element updater adapted to receive update information and update-password information, said storage element
20 updater for comparing values of the update-password information with the at least the first password.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the at least the first password is associated
with the at least the first identifier and wherein said storage element updater selectably updates
25 the at least the first identifier responsive to comparison made by said storage element updater.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each network of the group of networks comprises a wireless local area network, wherein each wireless local area network identified by a service set identifier, and wherein each wireless local area network selectably broadcasts

network-identification signals containing indications of the service set identifiers, said network detector for detecting the network-identification signals.

15. In a method of communicating in a radio communication system having a mobile
5 node selectably operable to communicate data within at least a first selected frequency band within which a group of networks are operable to communicate, an improvement of a method for facilitating selection of at least a first selected network of the group of networks with which to attempt, by the mobile node, to communicate the data, said method comprising:
storing at the mobile node at least a first identifier identifying the at least the first
10 selected network;
detecting which networks of the group of networks are within communication range of the mobile node;
selecting which, if any, network of the group of networks as the at least the first selected network with which to attempt to communicate the data, selection made of networks, if
15 any, both stored during said operation of storing and also detected during said operation of detecting.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the operations of providing storage-element update information to the mobile node and selectably updating identifications of the at
20 least the first identifier stored at the mobile node.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein at least a first password is associated with the at least the first identifier, wherein an update-information password is further associated with the storage-element update information and wherein said method further comprises the operation of
25 comparing the first password with the update-information password.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein each network of the group of networks is identified by a network identity, wherein each network broadcasts network-identity signals, and

wherein said operation of detecting comprises detecting network-identity signals of networks within range of the mobile node.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the networks of the group of networks comprise
5 wireless local area networks, wherein the network identity the identifies each of the networks comprises a service set identifier and wherein said operation of detecting comprises detecting values of the service set identifiers contained in the network-identity signals.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein said operation of selecting comprises selecting
10 one network of a plurality of networks when the plurality of networks identities of which are stored during said operation of storing are also detected during said operation of detecting.